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Agenda item 100 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Greece, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

Strengthening of the rule of law

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the achievement of international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without any distinction as to race, sex, language and religion is one of the purposes of the United Nations,

Firmly convinced that, as stressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights,

Convinced that through their own national legal and judicial systems States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

Recognizing the importance of the role that can be played by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in supporting national efforts to strengthen the institutions of the rule of law,

Recalling the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations and under the

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

coordination of the Centre for Human Rights with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures which have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law, 2/

Recalling also its resolution 48/132 of 20 December 1993, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/50 of 4 March 1994, 3/

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General submitted in conformity with resolution 48/132; 4/

2. Takes note with interest of the proposals contained therein for strengthening the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in order to comply fully with the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning assistance to States in strengthening their institutions of the rule of law;

3. Praises the efforts made by the Centre for Human Rights in order to accomplish its ever-increasing tasks with the limited financial and personnel resources at its disposal;

4. Expresses its concern that the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation does not have either the financial capacity or the staff to respond to the requests for project funds submitted to it, nor to carry out further programme development;

5. Notes that the programme has been unable to provide substantial financial assistance for capital assistance needs that have a direct impact on the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law;

6. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to explore the possibilities of obtaining from the financial institutions of the United Nations system the necessary financial support for capital assistance needs for technical and financial assistance to national projects in reforming penal and correctional establishments, education and training of lawyers, judges and security forces in human rights, and any other sphere of activities relevant to the good functioning of the rule of law;

7. Endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General that, in all United Nations activities in areas that touch on human rights and the rule of law, due attention should be given to the coordinating and substantive role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights;

2/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III, sect. II, para. 69.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24).

4/ A/49/512.

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the results of the contacts he may establish in accordance with paragraph 6 above, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights contained in paragraph 69 of section II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.